

# True, false, maybe?

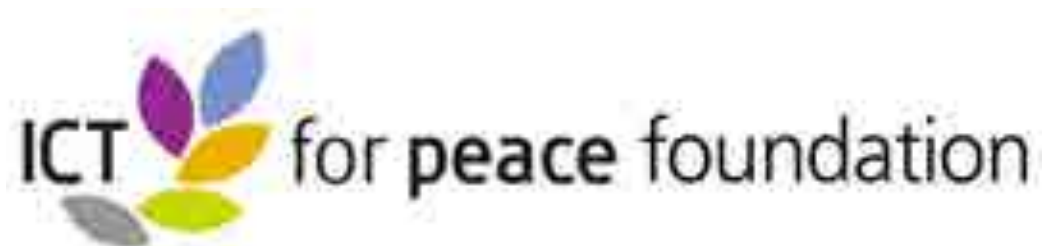
## Determining veracity online

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Senior Advisor, ICT4Peace Foundation



BBCTWO



Identity vs. anonymity

Process vs. event

Why vs. what

Verified vs. veracity

# Crisis Management Office Affairs Bureau for Yokohama

[http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023\\_3-57578812-93/yokohama-misfires-tweet-about-north-korea-missile-launch/](http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023_3-57578812-93/yokohama-misfires-tweet-about-north-korea-missile-launch/)



横浜市総務局危機管理室



@yokohama\_saigai



フォロー中

【ミサイルの発射】こちらは横浜市です。○より本日○時○分ころ(さきほど)、北朝鮮からミサイルが発射されたとの情報がありました。テレビ・ラジオ等で今後の情報に注意してください。#yokohama #横浜

返信 リツイート お気に入りに登録 その他

1,874

件のリツイート

421

お気に入り



2013年4月10日 - 11:19

# Single witness vs. group

How do we recognise a valuable solitary voice?

# @ReallyVirtual



**Sohaib Athar**

@ReallyVirtual

Follow

Helicopter hovering above Abbottabad at 1AM (is a rare event).

7:58 PM - 01 May 11

3,440 RETWEETS 2,565 FAVORITES



**Sohaib Athar**

@ReallyVirtual

Follow

Go away helicopter - before I take out my giant swatter :-/

8:05 PM - 01 May 11

968 RETWEETS 814 FAVORITES



**Sohaib Athar**

@ReallyVirtual

Follow

A huge window shaking bang here in Abbottabad Cantt. I hope its not the start of something nasty :-S

8:09 PM - 01 May 11

1,944 RETWEETS 1,100 FAVORITES





# The danger of disguise

What you read, hear and see isn't always true

# how and who do we trust?

abduction of a gay girl of damascus. or so we thought.

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<http://damascusgaygirl.blogspot.com>



Jelena Lecic, of London



Tom MacMaster, 40 year old American

# how and who do we trust?

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# how and who do we trust?

<http://lemmetweetthatforyou.com>



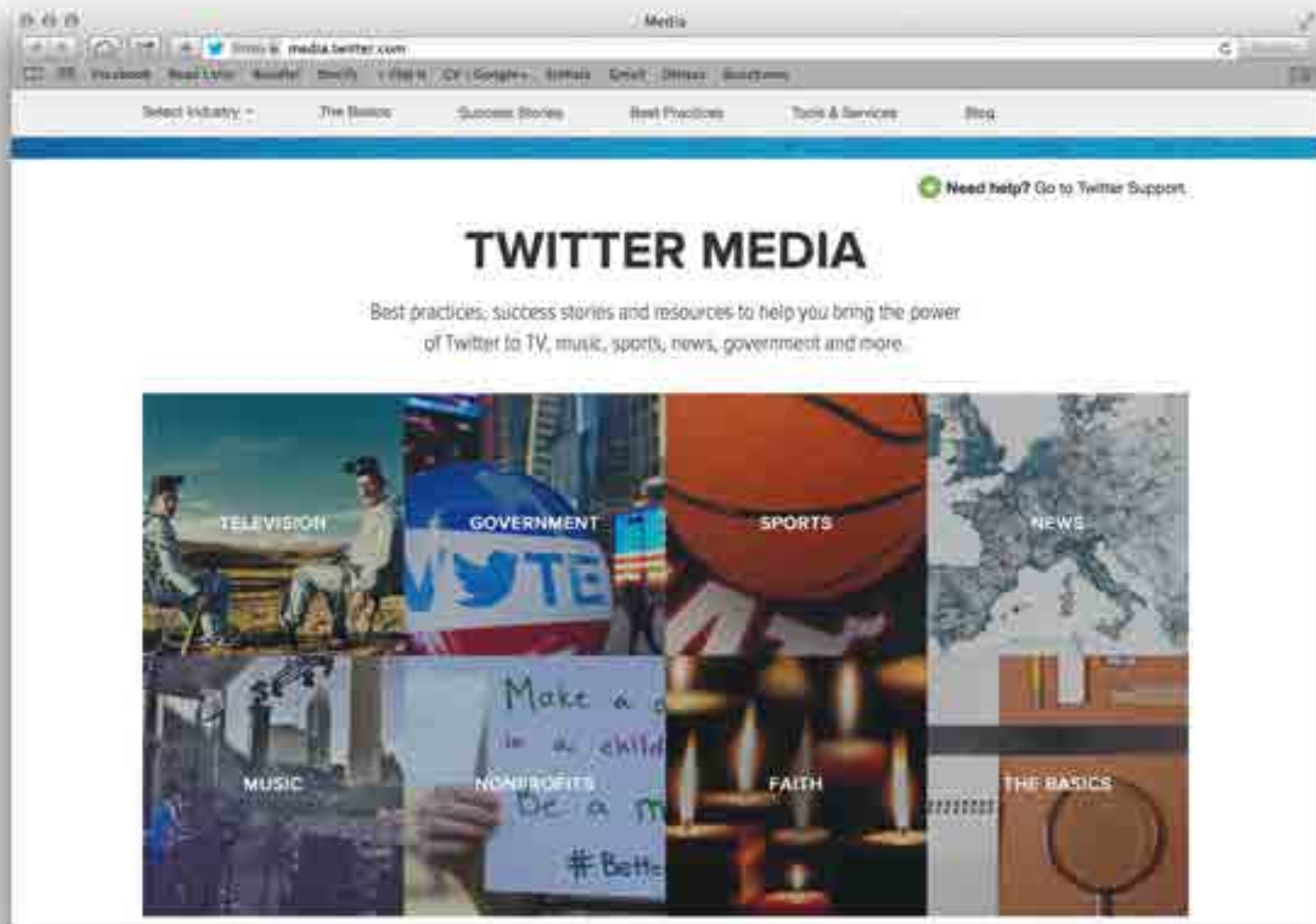
# How to verify?

Some basic tips



# Leverage existing social media verification guides

Twitter resources for media | <https://media.twitter.com>



# Leverage existing social media verification guides

Facebook for journalists | <https://www.facebook.com/journalists/notes>





# BBC social media verification

<http://195.188.87.10/academy/collegeofjournalism/how-to/how-to-use-social-media/social-media-verification>





# BBC social media verification

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/blogcollegeofjournalism/posts/bbcsms\\_bbc\\_procedures\\_for\\_veri](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/blogcollegeofjournalism/posts/bbcsms_bbc_procedures_for_veri)



# Twitter verification guide

<http://bit.ly/13eMIUt>



# Tweet verification

**Number of followers:** Does the source have a large following? If there are only a few, are any of the followers known and credible sources? Also, how many lists has this Twitter handle been added to?

**Number following:** How many Twitter users does the Twitter handle follow? Are these known and credible sources?

**Retweets:** What type of content does the Twitter handle retweet? Does the Twitter handle in question get retweeted by known and credible sources?

# Tweet verification

**Location:** Can the source's geographic location be ascertained? If so, are they nearby the unfolding events? One way to try and find out by proxy is to examine during which periods of the day/night the source tweets the most. This may provide an indication as to the person's time zone.

**Timing:** Does the source appear to be tweeting in near real-time? Or are there considerable delays? Does anything appear unusual about the timing of the person's tweets?

# Tweet verification

**Social authentication:** If you're still unsure about the source's reliability, use your own social network—Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn—to find out if anyone in your network knows about the source's reliability.

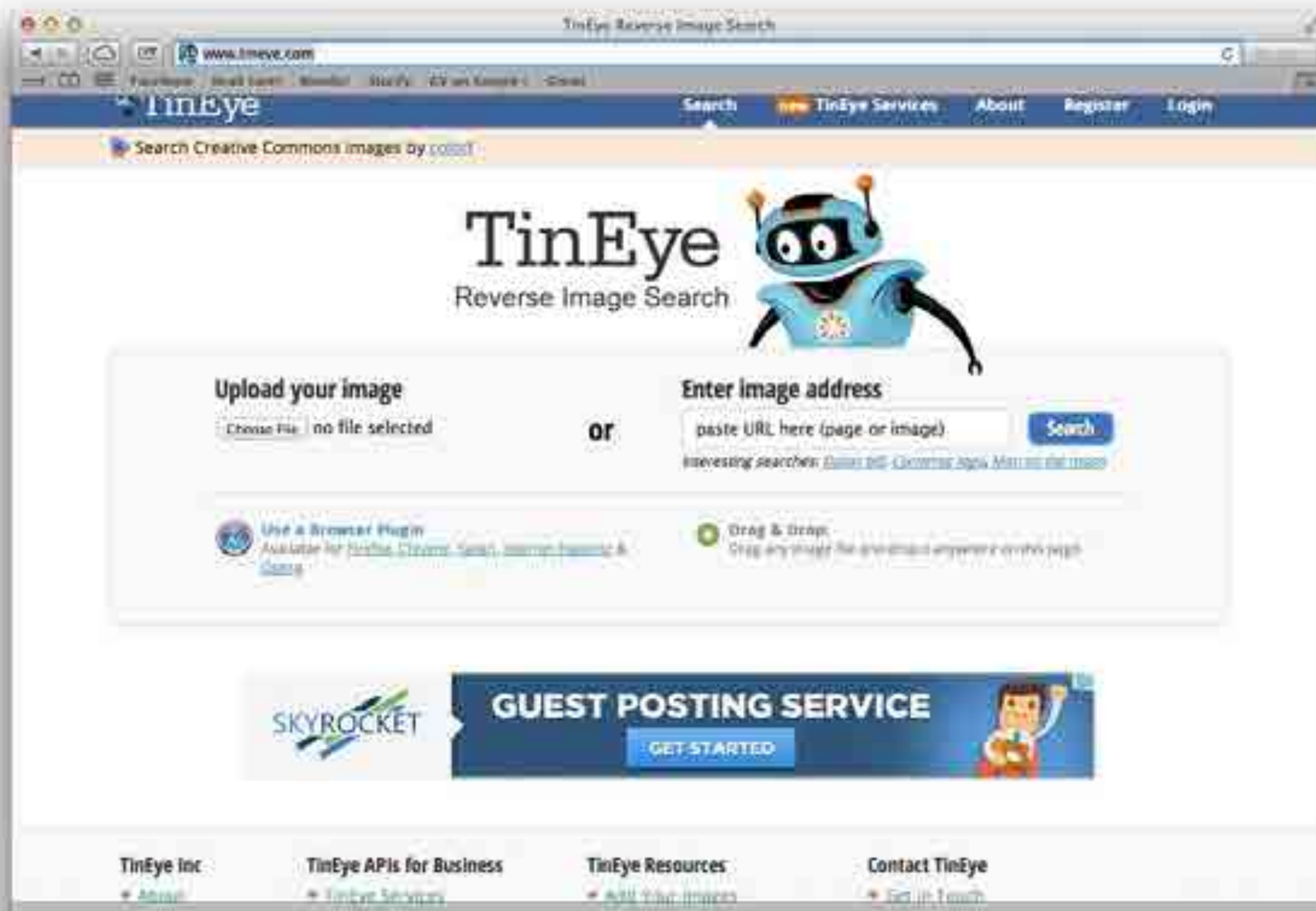
**Media authentication:** Is the source quoted by trusted media outlets whether this be in the mainstream or social media space?

**Engage the source:** Tweet them back and ask them for further information. For example, you can tweet back and ask for the source of the report and for any available pictures, videos, etc. Place the burden of proof on the source.



verify photographs

<http://www.tineye.com>



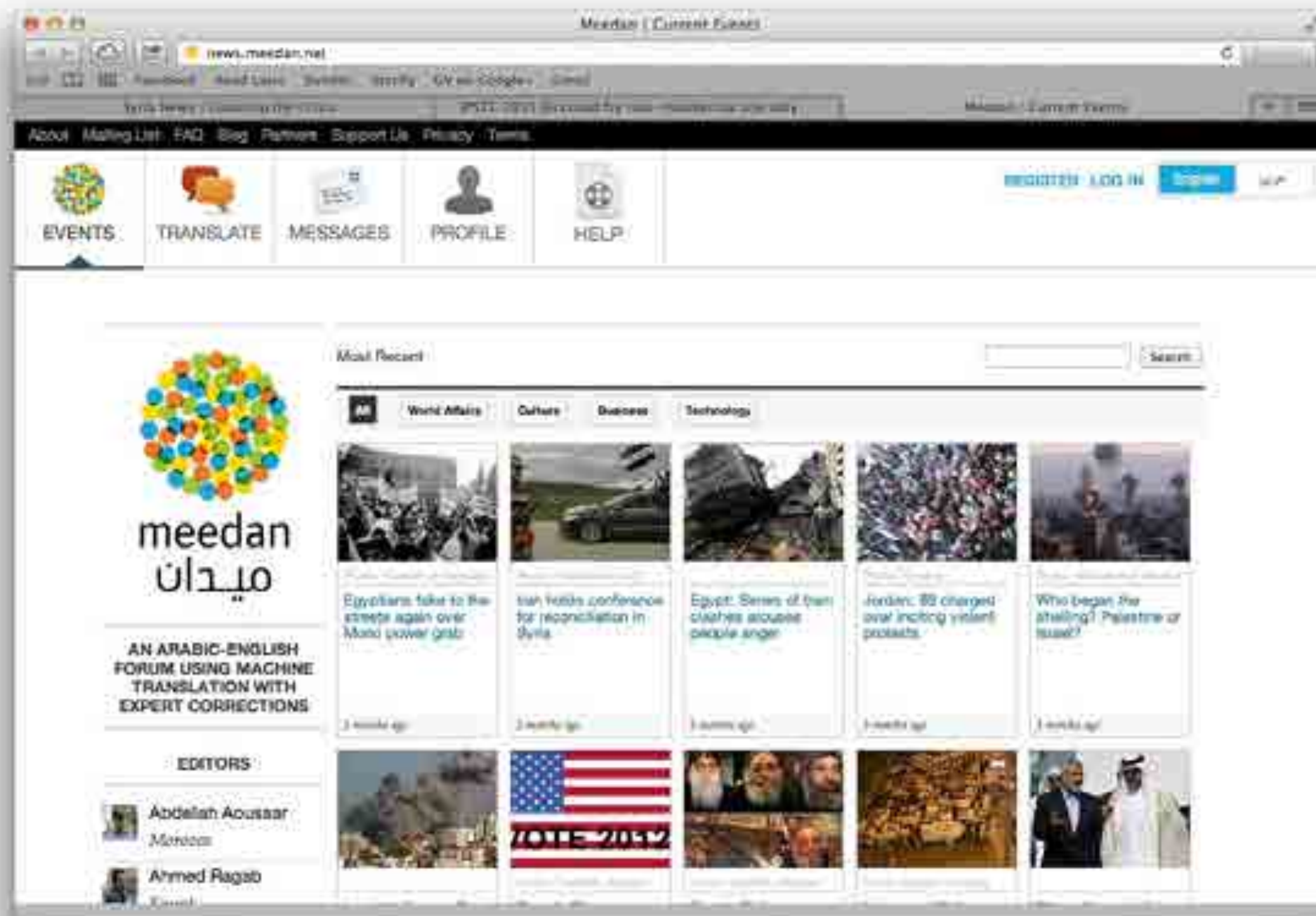
# verify weather

<https://www.wolframalpha.com>



# meedan

<http://news.meedan.net>





# Essential guides

Around social media verification

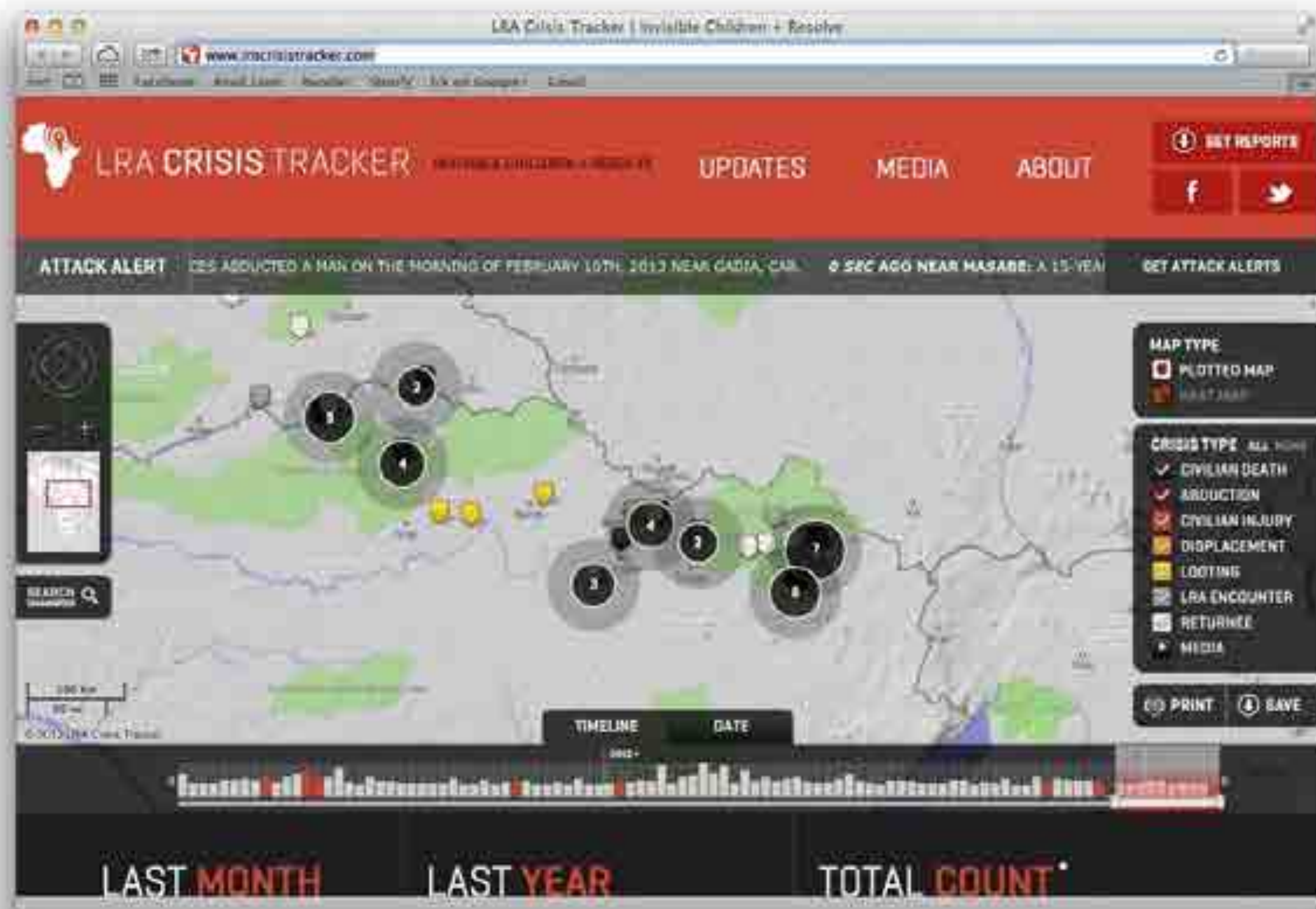
# Nieman Foundation Report

<http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/reports/issue/100072/Summer-2012.aspx>



# LRA Crisis Tracker

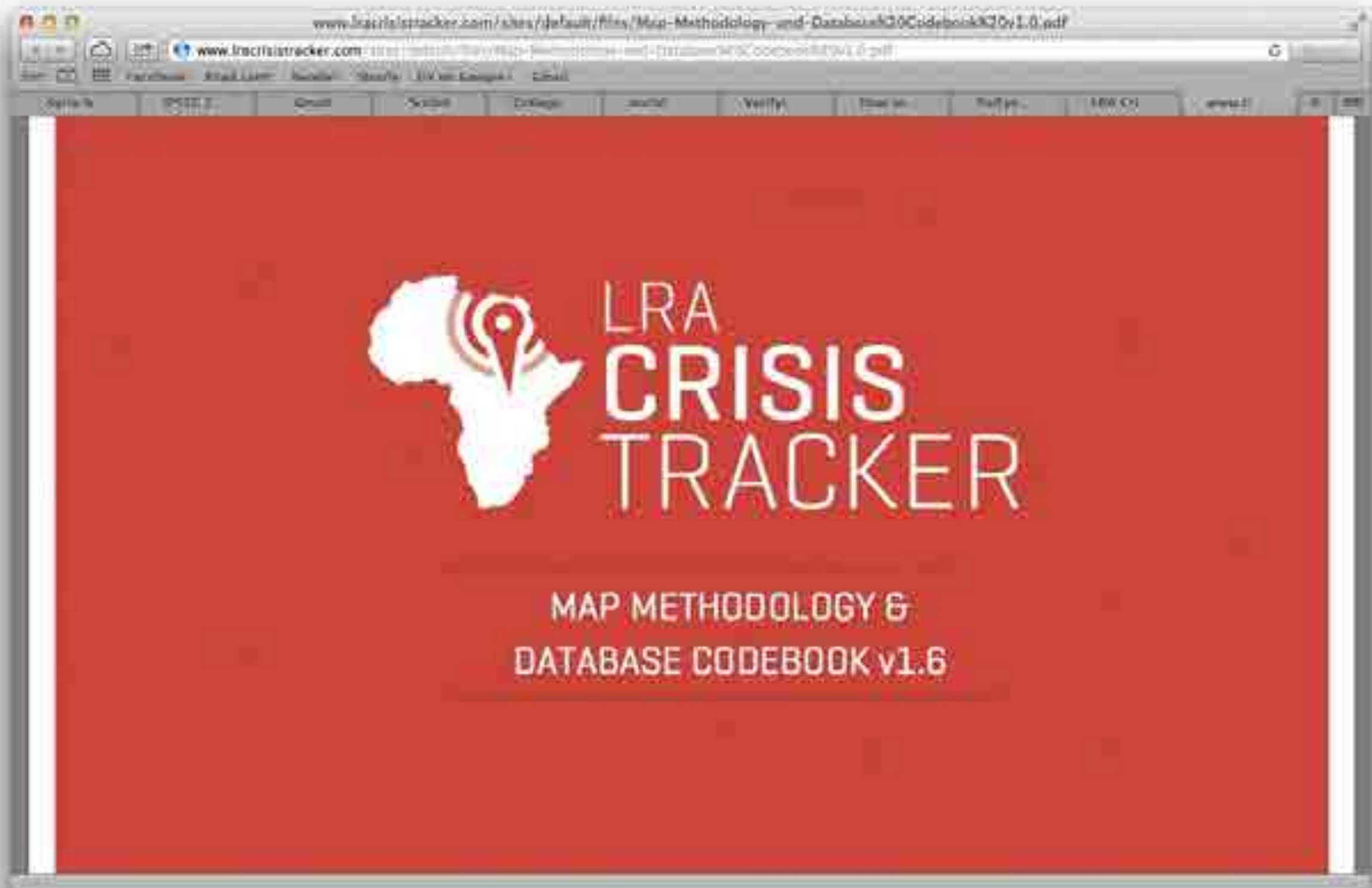
<http://www.lracrisistracker.com>



# LRA Crisis Tracker | Report verification

<http://www.lracrisistracker.com/sites/default/files/Map-Methodology-and-Database%20Codebook%20v1.0.pdf>

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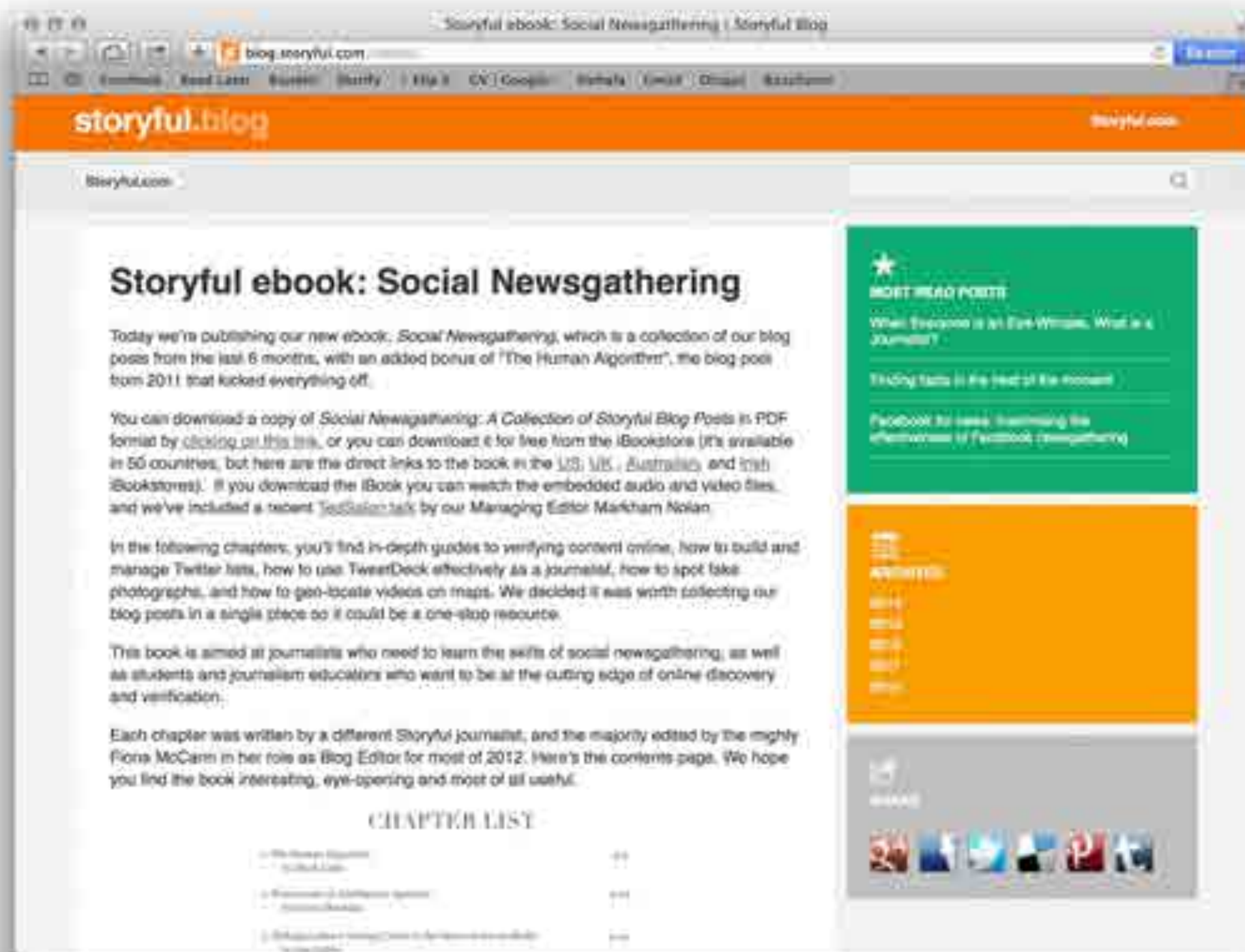
# storyful

<http://storyful.com>



# storyful

<http://blog.storyful.com/ebook>



# Mapping violence in Libya

<http://goo.gl/maps/UqAW>





# Mapping violence in Libya

<http://bit.ly/15LS6x4>

Mapping Violence Against Pro-Democracy Protests in Libya

www.arasmus.com/2011/03/01/mapping-violence-against-pro-democracy-protests-in-libya/

JOURNAL CONTACT

Twitter

Arasmus

Mapping Violence Against Pro-Democracy Protests in Libya

MARCH 1, 2011 NO COMMENTS PHOTOS, RECOMMENDS

On February 17, 2011, non-violent protesters began to take to the streets in Libya, seeking an end to decades of dictatorship and calling for basic human rights, rule of law, and rudimentary economic development. It was apparent to me, that given the violent history of the region, the absence of international media inside Libya, the limited media attention the protests were likely to get in a busy international news-cycle, these protesters were in grave danger. I began to work with some contacts on Twitter and started mapping cities in which protests were occurring. A number of days later, as the violence against the protesters increased, I changed my approach, removed references to the protesters and their successes, and instead mapped government violence against protests, medical needs, infrastructure disruptions, military resources, and political arrests. This reflected a conclusion, that I could minimize the harm to protesters through media attention, by plotting violence, rather than running the additional risk of plotting protests.

Has the tactic of manually mapping information compiled from trusted Twitter reports been successful? In the metric that really matters, we'll never know. The repressive Libyan government continues in power, but it does seem

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# Verification Handbook

<http://verificationhandbook.com>



thank you

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